

[Early Days In Grant County]

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We left Juarez, Meico Mexico in 1870 and came to Grant county in a wagon train. Our first stop in the county was at Hudson Hot Springs, the present Faywood Hot Springs. In the early days people [?] had to make for known water holes as water was scarce in the territory. The [Membros?] River was [?] known as the lost river for there were only certain places that it flowed [?] above the ground. Many travelers missed the river and some were known to perish from thirst. The Faywoood Hot Springs in the early days were very hot. We [tied?] a string to some meat and dropped it into the springs and it was soon cooked. Bacon was smoked by sticking a piece on a sharp stick and being held in the springs. When the springs was cemented in 1893 by A.R. Graham, he pumped part of the water out of the springs and [found?] many relics. Among them were stone hammers, flint and bone implements, copper spoons, and earthern vessles? vessels . Human bones were found, part [?] [?] jaw bone, a skull,. There have been a number of stories told about the Springs. One that the Indians took their victims as well as the members of their tribe that they wished to dispose of and threw them in the springs. There is some doubt that the stories is true, but it is a fact that at one time a calvary [?] [squad?] was detailed to go to the springs to warn a Dutch family that the Indians were near, as the Apaches were headed toward the old settlers home stead. The cavalry trooped camped at the springs and the Indians not knowing that [the?] soldiers were in the vicinity. About daylight the

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band of savages swooped down from the adjacent hills, expecting to surprise the Dutch family, but the surprise came the other way for the cunning savages were met with a warm reception, by a volley from the soldiers

One Indian fell wounded near the springs; while the other wounded were 2 carried away by the Indians they were unable to get the Indian that fell near the springs. A soldier saw the Indian lying near the springs, and before any one could stop the soldier he picked up the Indian and threw him in the springs. The soldier was court martialed for this cruel offence, but was acquitted. The Indians in the early days went to the springs for bathes when they were ill and it was said that the tribe once a year all camped at the springs a took [?] [weat?] bathes, by building [an?] adobe house and [?] placing hot rocks on the inside then throwing blankets over the hot stones, and then the patient went into the room and laid on the hot rocks until he began to prespire freely;

When we came on to the Cienga, the present Silver City, there were a few Mexican people scattered around. A large spring was where the Big Ditch is today, and where main street was in the '70's. At the East end of Broadway, where the armory now stands, the Indians would creep up and try to kill the people that camped at the spring. There was a standing reward that every time anyone brought in the head of an Indian or other evidence that he had killed an Apache he would get ten dollars.

The Indians caused a great deal of trouble during the early days, but we early settlers caused them quiet a lot of worry after we became used to their customs.

Where the Masonic Hall now stands was the town carrol, corral all of the stock in the town was placed in this corral at night for protection. In [?] the Indians slipped up to the corral one night and by the means of pouring water over the wall and drawing a rope back and forth cut an opening in the wall and drove all of the stock away. A party was formed at once to go after the stock. John Bullard was killed and the present Bullard Peak is where

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he was killed, eBullard was killed when he stooped over an Indian to seee if he was dead, the Indian raised up and took 3 and shot Bullard through the heart.

The town never was able to keep many horses around as the Indians usually got them by some means.

Robert Golden